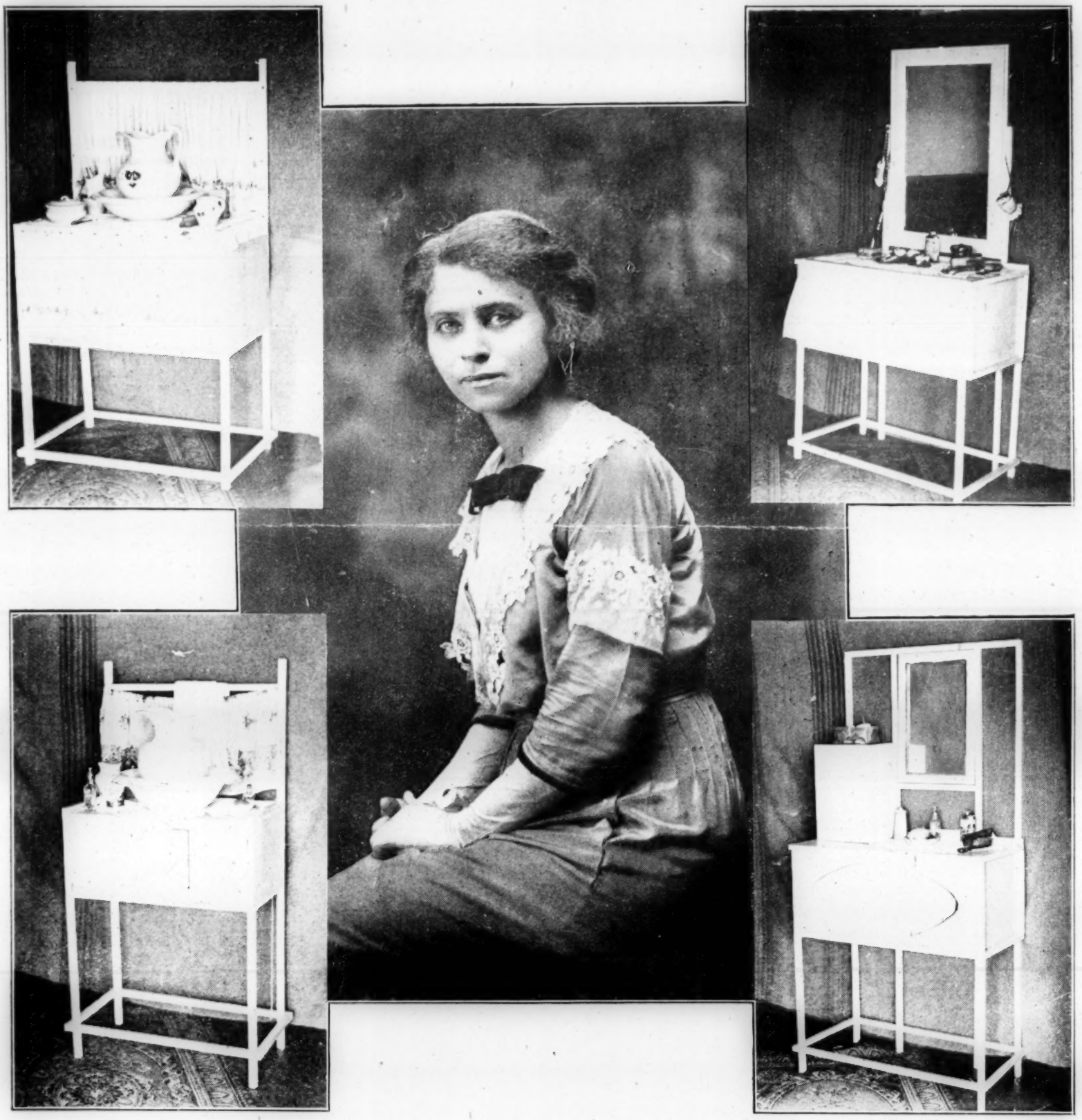
The Negro Farmer

Vol. 2, No. 18---Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, September 25, 1915

Women's Number



Reducing the Cost of Living with Box Furniture

Center: Mrs. Sallie McCann Fisher. Top: Washstand and Dresser in her bed-room. Bottom: Washstand and Dresser in room of 13-year-old daughter.

This picture is published upon the special and joint request of 20 summer school teachers from Birmingham, Alabama; Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Georgia.

(See page 6)

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THE NEGRO FARMER

Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers

VOL. 2, No. 18 TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., SEPTEMBER 25, 1915 5 Cents Per Copy. $1.00 Per Year

THE NEGRO FARMER

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ISAAC FISHER....Editor and Business Mgr.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1915

MEMBER
NATIONAL NEGRO PRESS
ASSOCIATION

The Editor's Page

Preserving A Woman's Youth

There is a youth of inexperience, of ignorance, of frivolity and nonsense. And yet God decreed that even while passing through this stage a young woman shall be charming. I have no quarrel with the Maker about this. I simply accept it as one of the eternal verities, just as I accept the fact that the rose is ever surrounded by the annoying and cruel thorn.

Then, there is a youth of sincerity, of eternal studenthood, of high aspirations, of cheerful spirits, of physical charm, of perpetual sunshine, of infectious laughter, of innumerable friends and no real foes. Whether in maiden of "sweet sixteen" or matron with face to the sunset of life and locks like snow, this youth is the wine of life "that maketh glad the heart of man." There is no woman who does not desire it; and where it does not exist, the world is poorer by just so much.

The Suffrage—?

I am willing for women to have the suffrage that they may help right the wrongs of the world, although I refuse to be swept off my feet by the debate as to the arguments for or against woman suffrage. I have no objection to conceding that women are the moral conservators of the world. If it is necessary, I will agree that they are men's equals in mental strength. I won't even split hairs with the psychologists on this. I'll concede them everything that the most ardent champion of woman's rights claims or demands; and when I have done all this, I'll take my stand and declare that if God had done no more than give a woman the power to achieve the youth described in the second paragraph above, He had done a great work and had created a great masterpiece; for after a man has analyzed the multiform qualities of the various types of "the eternal feminine", he will find that he is ever in search, unless he find it, of the woman with youth like that in paragraph two.

When A Woman Is Old

Some women of fifty years have this youth while many girls of eighteen have it not. Some women, in bitterness, believe that outward physical charm is the essence of the youth which the world wants. Physical beauty is a part of it; but if there be nothing but the youthful face and form and the woman be unable to smile, to cheer, to love, to appreciate friends, to learn with the learner, soar with the dreamer, love little children and be, however wide her learning and deep her culture, first, last and all the time a sweet woman —not a new type of man—if she can not do these things she is an old woman, in fact; and her physcial attractions do not attract, if I may state it that way.

Secrets of Youth

Ponce de Leon wasted his strength in vain, searching the peninsula of Florida for the fabled fountain of perpetual youth, when the fountain was within himself, had he but known it. No woman need be old. In view of the great power for good of her youth, it is a sin for her ever to grow old. I am not talking about years. I am talking about a woman's heart, her soul. There is a youth of years which must pass away and there is a youth of spirit which need not add one day to its age.

A very shrewd advertiser uses the following words to introduce his complexion cream to women: "Do not envy a good complexion. Have one;" and he shows that his cream will produce the desired complexion. So it seems pertinent to remark here to women who feel their youth departing and who look, often in envy, upon the joy which often shines out of the faces of younger women in years: "Don't envy youth. Get it." "How shall we get it?" is a question next to be expected.

I have watched many women who seemed never to grow old; and in almost every case, they were persons who were happy and had good health.

Good Health

Ill health is a curse, for it is usually the punishment for violation of laws. Illness bears down heavily

upon the appearance and spirits of women. They bear it better than men but the cost is greater. That woman who would be young must keep well. It is a duty to herself and to society. It will pay her, it will pay her father, her guardian or her husband to keep her well. There is little doubt but that if each woman realized how much her "good looks" and her womanly charm depend upon good health, they would all follow the Chinese custom and insist that the physician prevent them from becoming ill, instead of curing them after disease enters their bodies.

Irritability, suspicion, apparent unkindness of heart, uncharitableness of judgment will make the most beautiful woman "ugly", as we use the term; and yet, these spring often from ill-health. Going to her mirror and beholding her own unlovely visage—unlovely because the bodily mechanism which makes beauty is out of repair—the best woman cannot but feel a pang as she compares her own appearance with that of some more youthful woman, and the consequent irritability results in making her more unlovely and more envious of those women who are less unlovely.

Mothers who know the unexpressed bitterness of unlovely and prematurely old women, owe it to the happiness of the world to lay broad foundations for the health of their girls; and when they give them over into the care of the schools, let the authorities be made to understand that first, first and then first of all, these girls are to be made into strong, healthy animals—let the culture be put on next. But make them healthy, robust of body, sure of feet, supple of limb, regular of habit and clear of eye. This is Nature's recipe for the foundations of feminine beauty and youth. You can't make an "ugly" girl or woman nor one old in spirit out of a girl or woman who is in perfect health and whose body functions well all the time; for health itself is beauty and youth.

Keeping Happy

I may find it more difficult to explain the subject of happiness than the one of health. It may be said, however, that good health is a good start toward happiness; and endowed with the former, a woman begins rather unhandicapped.

However difficult it may be to lay down laws of happiness, there is no question but that a happy woman is generally young in spirit and attractive beyond measure. See her, and the smile of God is in her face; talk to her and the world seems born again; put your life into her hands and "She will do (you) good and not evil all the days of her life."

Why then, if happiness be such a boon, are so many women unhappy? All my life I have heard this question asked and the answer has been: "The men are to blame." "Where there is so much smoke, there must be some fire", runs the old proverb; and so, to get the matter into the record and before the Court, I plead guilty for the men. What then? This: Society must train men to better conduct toward women; but, in the meantime, each woman is under obligations to her finer self not to permit any man to embitter her life, even though their relation be the closest.

Who Is Master Of The Woman?

If a sweetheart or husband can render and keep a woman unhappy, he is master of her happiness. I believe that the marriage vow—"for better or for worse"—means just what it says; and that if her marriage means "for worse" in her case, a woman must go right on to the end except in the cases named in the Bible; but I believe that she must take her happiness out of the hands of the life-partner and draw on the fountain within herself for the happiness outwardly denied, keeping her marriage vow just the same.

If she is too weak to do this, she is too weak to be happy when a neighbor says an unkind word, and the neighbor is her master; too weak to be happy when the soulless flirt stirs the pangs of jealousy, and all flirts are her masters; too weak to witness the good fortune of another without unhappiness, and every fortunate person of her acquaintance is her master; too weak to bear the disappointments that come into every life, and every disappointment is her master; too weak to wear lawn if a neighbor has silk, and every woman with a silk dress is her master.

And yet millions of women are unhappy and growing old because they have taken the keys of their happiness and placed them into the keeping of all the neighbors who live in their towns and on their streets.

Remedies

The unhappy woman needs something to take her mind away from the persons and things which make her vex her soul. Let the past go, with its vexations and disappointments. Get in the habit of running ten and fifteen years forward and looking back upon the now. From that point the things which seem so dreadful today will seem very small. If one attempts to snub, you assume the "Six-foot attitude"—the attitude which is expressed in the words: "Five feet can not look down upon six; and I am six feet, the would be snubber, five feet."

Get out of your social "set" and mix with other people more; get acquainted with those poorer than yourself, their friendship is wholesome and will serve as a tonic. Talk with people high and low, educated and unlettered, it will broaden your sympathies. Do something for somebody every day. Spend a lot of time with young people, particularly young girls; it will keep you from forgetting that a woman's main business in the world is to be sweet and full of life and cheer that she may lighten the burden of the toilers. Do not shut young men and young women and little children out of your lives, for if you do, you will ring

down the curtain on your youth. Above all, love God and serve Him by being sweet to all His creatures. He will reward you by giving you happiness and a youth as eternal as His throne, for into your soul He will pour His immortal Spirit.

—Isaac Fisher.

FROM A HOME SUBSCRIBER

Tuskegee, Ala., September 15, 1915.

The Negro Farmer Co.

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Gentleman:

I am enclosing one dollar for my renewal for The Negro Farmer. I am glad to say that it is one of the most valuable papers I ever read. I have many families in my community. Should they take your paper, its teachings would mean Prosperity, which brings Happiness, and the necessaries of Life to their home. I hope you will be able to put your paper in every farmer's home in the South.

Very truly,

M. S. Russell.

HOW TO SAVE YOUR HORSE IN DEEP WATER.

By Otto Fricke, C. E.

Do not believe that a horse, which of course is not accustomed to water, could naturally swim as soon as it loses the ground. The animal has one thought only, namely, to hold its head and neck as high out of the water as possible. In consequence of the position of the lungs and wrong acting with the reins, the back of the horse sinks under, and it is in a climbing position, three-fourths standing.

This position hinders the horse from swimming forward, and in nine out of ten cases, the horse and rider will drown, if the latter does not understand how to make a horse swim. Any, even a slight, pull of the reins or a slight leaning back of the rider, causes the back of the horse to sink more and more, until the horse is in a vertical position. Because the horse cannot get forward in this position, it turns, strikes the water once more with the front legs, and sinks under.

The rider must take a big handful of the horse's mane. He must put his body forward, leaning his head against the neck of his horse without ever touching the horse's head. With the knees he must hold on to the saddle, otherwise the bouyancy of the water would carry him off. Only in such a position can a rider stay in the saddle swimming. The rider must keep in each hand the snaffle reins and can direct with these the horse by moving the arms just for a few moments SIDEWAYS. It is of VITAL IMPORTANCE, that he NEVER pull the reins BACKWARDS.

It is interesting to note that all military horses in the German army are trained in swimming with their riders.—Our Dumb Animals.

FARMERS' DICTIONARY

The "Big Words" and Events Expained

RECORD OF COLORED PEOPLE TOLD IN A FEW WORDS

In response to a request of a student for "some facts about the colored people that I can tell in a few words", there are brought down below parts of a pamphlet prepared by the Editor of this paper as the "Fiftieth Anniversary Christmas Greetings to the Colored Children of the United States" (1913).

In Wealth:

Colored people in the United States own over one billion dollars worth of property.

In Education:

Just after the Civil War only about ten out of every one hundred colored persons could read and write. Now, seventy in every hundred can do so.

In Religion:

Thirty-three out of every one hundred colored persons are members of the church.

In Literature:

We have—

Paul Lawrence Dunbar, a poet who was the equal of Robert Burns, the Scotch writer;

Alexander Dumas, "The greatest romantic novelist and the most universally read story teller of the world" (International Encyclopedia;)

Alexander Pushkin, "The greatest poet of Russia;" (International Encyclopedia;)

Phillis Wheatley, early writer of poems.

In Sculpture:

Edmonia Lewis, who designed "The Death of Cleopatra" and "Abraham Lincoln."

Meta Vaux Warrick, designer of statues showing progress of the Negro.

In Painting:

Henry O. Tanner. His painting called "Lazarus Rising from the Dead" was bought by the Republic of France.

In the Drama:

Ira Aldridge, an actor who was decorated by the King of Prussia and given the Cross of Leopold by the Emperor of Russia for his splendid acting.

In Music:

"Black Patti" (Sissieretta Jones) Queen of song.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, great composer of music.

Remember that the Negro slave songs are the only original music in America.

In Military Science:

Toussaint L'Overture, soldier, statesman and martyr. Be sure to ask your teacher read for you Wendell Phillips' oration on this great soldier.

In Inventions:

Elijah McCoy has received 28 patents, and Granville T. Woods has invented many improvements for the telgeraph and telephone instruments.

In Philology:

The alphabet used by the Vei people, an African tribe, was invented by Doalu Bukere, a member of the tribe.

In Discovery:

When Commander Robert E. Peary planted the American flag at the North Pole, a Colored man, Matt Henson, stood by his side.

In Foreign Missions:

Lott Carey was the first great Missionary to Africa, going to Liberia before Dr. Livinstone did.

In Reformations:

We have given to the world Dr. Booker T. Washington, a great educational reformer. He has convinced all modern civilized countries that any system of education that does train a man's hand along with his head and heart is faulty.

Dr. Washington is the most famous leader the race has produced. He may be said to be our great constructive leader—a man who builds always.

In Statemanship:

Frederick Douglass, peerless orator and champion of our race and its rights. The man whose voice helped make the Colored people free.

In Government:

Negroes have set up governments in Haiti, Liberia and the Kingdom of Uganda.

In the United States, colored men have served in the following positions:

United States Senate: Hiram H. Revels, from Mississippi; Blanche K. Bruce, from Mississippi.

United States House of Representatives: From Alabama: Jere Haralson, Jas. T. Rapier, Benjamin S. Turner. From Florida: Josiah T. Walls. From Georgia: Jefferson Long. From Louisiana: Charles E. Na From Mississippi: John R. Lynch. From North Carolina: H. P. Cheatham, John Hyman, Jas. E. O'Hara, Geo. H. White. From South Carolina: Robert C. DeLarge, Joseph H. Rainey, Robert Smalls, Robert Elliott, Richard H. Cain, Thomas H. Miller, George W. Murray. From Virginia: John M. Langston.

In Business Administration:

In the organization and administration of the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, the largest school of its kind in the world, with its educational, industrial, commercial, banking, manufacturing, engineering, accounting an administrative department and scores of others, it has been proven that colored people can govern and administer any form of business under wise leadershi their own race.

There are numbers of other noted persons living—Negroes who stand in the fore-front; but all of them could not be named.

SMILE—IT HELPS

A smile is a good investment. It cheers the one to whom it is directed and makes his day brighter, while it helps to make a friend for the one who gives it. Smile often and sincerely.

Furnishing a Five-Room House for Less Than Ten Dollars

(Not Including Beds)

By Mrs. Sallie McCann Fisher, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama

EDITOR'S NOTE.

Twenty ladies from Birmingham, Alabama; Vicksburg, Mississippi; and the State of Georgia stood in the library of the Editor's home, one night in July, 1915. They were teachers attending the Tuskegee Summer School; had heard that the Editor's entire home was furnished, with a few exceptions, with box furniture, and had come to see for themselves. They had gone into all the rooms and had assembled to pass judgment.

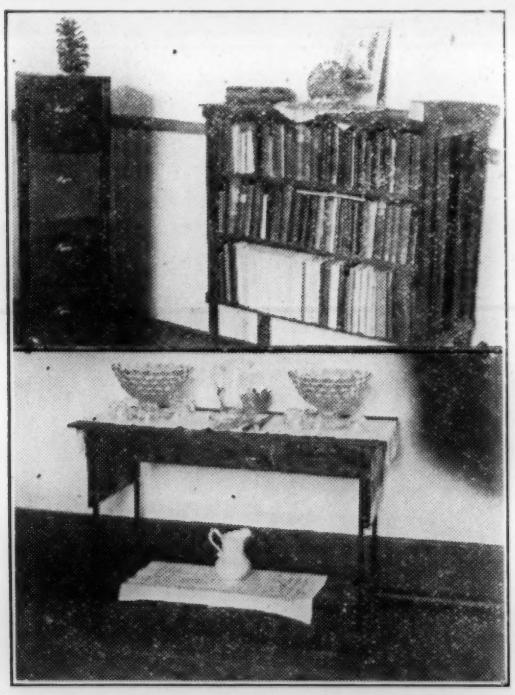
There was nothing but praise for the woman who bears the Editor's name; there was genuine surprise that the Editor knew enough about tools to construct furniture out of boxes; but there was open condemnation of that individual because he had not presented through The Negro Farmer the story of the use of this furniture in his home, out of appreciation of his wife's helpfulness in this direction, and so that younger women might be helped.

The Editor tried to explain that The Negro Farmer is owned by a great number of stockholders and that he did not feel that it was expected that he should use the paper to chronicle the doings of his own family unless those things bear directly upon the paper itself. Mrs. Fisher took the Editor's part and explained that he had been unusually open in showing appreciation of her helpfulness in the use of the furniture although he had vigorously objected at first to its use on the ground that it would be best in every respect for her to have the kind of furniture that other families use.

The ladies listened with polite interest and showed that no reasons had been given for not publishing the matter in The Negro Farmer **"To show openly your appreciation of your wife's unselfishness, and to help other young women help their husbands."**

Still unconvinced of the propriety of the course, the Editor promised those earnest women that he would publish a story from his home partner, and the pictures of the furniture which had impressed the ladies so much; and the promise is kept in this issue. If publishing these items is not in good taste, the Editor appeals for defense to all those ladies who feel that it is a man's duty to show openly that he appreciates the love and sacrifice and brooding tenderness of the wife who makes him her all in all.

—ISAAC FISHER.



Top: Corner of Library—Book-Case and Filing Case. Bottom: Dining Room Serving Table

HOW I BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH BOX FURNITURE

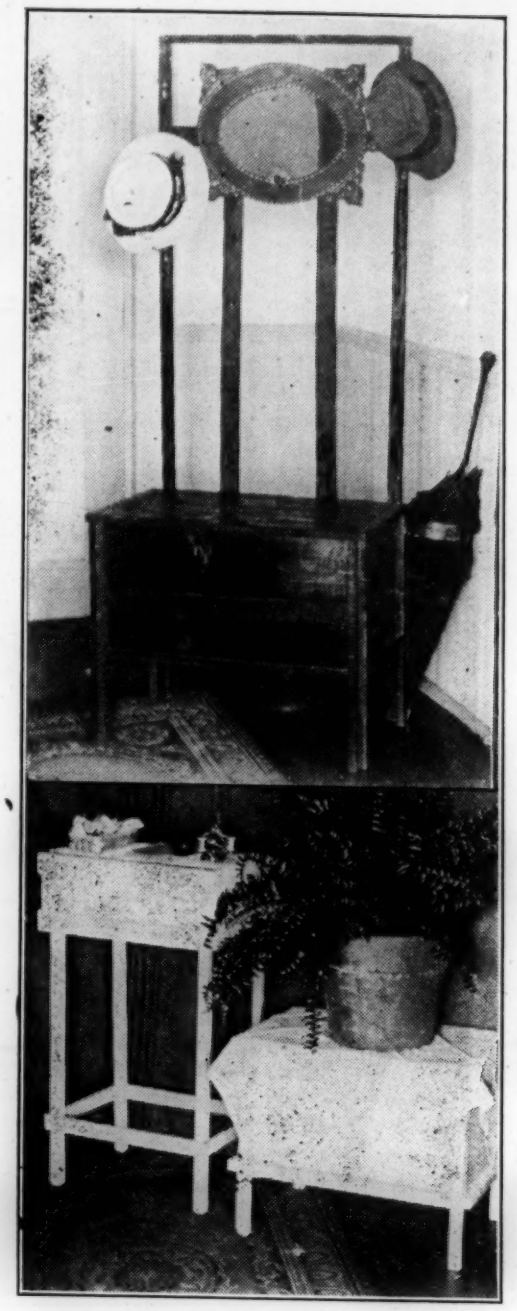
A few years ago, while we were living for a few months away from our home, I secured a few goods boxes and made one rather neat dresser and washstand for our bedroom. I designed the furniture and did most of the sawing and nailing. At night, my husband would help me with such parts of the work as I had not been able to do during the day. We were very agreeably surprised to find how attractive we had been able to make our room at practically no cost; and we decided that if ever we had to be away from home again, we would try box furniture on a larger scale.

MY PROBLEM AT TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

About a year and a half ago, my husband was called to Tuskegee Institute to begin a work which was in its infancy and which furnished no means of judging as to its permanence. Through a number of years we had succeeded in purchasing some very expensive and valuable furniture, and I did not, under the circumstances, feel like going to the expense of crating it for moving and taking the chances of its being damaged in transit, unless I knew that we were to be permanently located at Tuskegee. And, yet, I wanted to keep house and did not care to purchase a new set of furniture.

We finally decided to leave all our furniture at our old home in Birmingham, taking rooms with another family at Tuskegee, for a while..

During the summer of 1914 I went home, leaving Mr. Fisher at Tuskegee. I told him that if he could find a house for us, we would furnish it entirley with box furniture. When I returned to the school, he had ready for me a house and all the usual articles of furniture for five rooms, made out of boxes which had cost one dollar. I was simply astounded because he has not studied carpentry.



Top: Hall Tree. Bottom: Combined Sewing Table and Lamp-Stand and Flower-Stand

ARTICLES USED IN OUR HOME

In my bed-room I have a washstand, dresser, sewing and reading table and a shoe cabinet. In our little girl's room there are a washstand, dresser, study table and book cabinet.

For the hall, there is a hall-tree and umbrella stand; a buffet, serving table and filter stand for the dining room; and a cabinet, table and shelf for the kitchen, all made from boxes. I did the most of the decorating and enameling of the boxes. The bed-room furniture is white, the hall-tree is stained a dark oak, while the library which contains a

desk, two book-cases, a center table and a filing case, has all its furniture stained a dark mahogany, the same color being used in the dining room.

COST

The total cost of all materials used was about $9.40. The box furniture has these merits: It is dainty and attractive, can be easily moved about in the house, is original, can be made by anyone, **can be sold for nothing** when one moves, or with the legs taken off, can be used for packing boxes. I do not think that I shall ever use "store-bought" furniture, entirely, again; although I may have a little of it.

Not least of the merits of my wholesale use of box furniture is Mr. Fisher's genuine appreciation of the help I have been in being willing to use this cheaper form of furniture.

Suggestions For Rural Negro Teachers

By Mrs. Ben J. Carr, Nashville, Tennessee

EDITOR'S NOTE.

The article below is from the wife of one of the most successful colored farmers in the South—a man who has actually made farming pay in dollars and cents. He says that he owes everything to her and she unconsciously gives the method of that help by stating that "A woman who does all of the cooking, a part of the washing, the sewing and mending, the housework, the gardening, raises the chickens and eggs for a family of seven, then markets the surplus and is first assistant to one of the busiest husbands in the world, doesn't have much time as her own" (in which to write articles for papers.) Mrs. Carr taught in rural schools of Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia for twelve years. She is therefore qualified and has authority to speak.

Any person familiar with Negro life in the rural districts knows that the teacher who goes to country places to conduct a school, must not only be able to secure a certificate showing she has had the necessary literary training, but she should have an inexhaustable supply of practical knowledge, and then, the tact, the sympathy and cordial good manners that will make it possible for her to carry into each home the information that will benefit that particular familiy.

Mrs. Ben J. Carr, "First Assistant to one of the busiest husbands in the world."

The teacher should certainly take part in every religious service in her community on Sunday.

She should require every child in her school to attend Sunday school and church once, during the day. If there is no minister to take the lead, then the teacher herself should hold a service each Sabbath.

One teacher of our acquaintance had all the grades in her school bring their quarterlies on Friday of each week, prepare and use the Sunday school lesson as a reading lesson for that day. This so stimulated the children's interest that this teacher always had a largely attended Sunday school although the ministers came to the community but one Sunday in the month.

The teacher should provide some kind of entertainment for her school and neighborhood at least once a month.

More Negro young people are leaving the farms because they are lonely than because they dread hard work.

The Negro farm woman has been the most neglected human creature in this whole civilized land. But the time has come that the teacher's efforts with the children will amount to but little, if that teacher has no message for the Negro mother.

The rural Negro mother has been tireless, faithful, industrious and cheerful, but she is "losing heart", when after her years of toil she sees her children drift off to the slums of the city. She knows her efforts are not counting.

She is not always able to express as much as she feels, but we all know with the Negro mother that if it takes the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the W. C. T. U., the County Fairs, the State Fairs, the Corn Clubs, the Pig Clubs, the Tomatoes Clubs the circulating libraries and all the other agencies that are employed to assist in the development of white boys and girls, certainly it takes more than a mother who is cooking, washing and patching from "sun to sun" to make a useful Negro citizen.

Until we can secure the other agencies for help, the teacher who goes to the rural districts must be prepared to carry the "light" to the Negro mother.

It is essential that the teacher should know something of Domestic Science. At least she should know enough of good cooking, plain sewing and home nursing that she may be able to select from the many excellent books and

magazines such information as will help the people in her immediate neighborhood.

A teacher, too, ought to be thoroughly familiar with the great educational advantages of the county and State Fairs.

As fairs are conducted now, the work in the home and educational departments are worth all the effort and expense of attending. If there are no colored fairs encourage the parents and children old enough to attend the white fairs; when they have caught the inspiration they will strive for a Negro fair.

Urge upon the parents to have exhibits and see to it that each Negro school has some sort of exhibit each year.

The teacher should accompany the children and parents to the fair and where it is possible try to have the person in charge of exhibits, etc., to demonstrate to the Negro mothers and children such methods and appliances as will make home life and farm life easier and more profitable. If the teacher finds this impossible at the white fair then she must take the place of the demonstrator so far as possible and explain all the exhibits and methods that will benefit and inspire her pupils and patrons to raise the standards of education and living in their respective communities.

Another thing the rural Negro teacher can do. She must help to gather and treasure the stories of our grandparents since the war. An efficient and tactful teacher ought to be able to use these stories with great success to inspire our young people.

We ought not to hear with unaffected minds these most touching stories of our ancestors.

The mothers and fathers who were given their freedom and turned loose in a blighted land among a people crushed with war and poverty, cheerfully shouldered their burdens and in many instances held out a helping hand to the mistress or master or some of "the white folks' children" and assisted them to rise with the burden which was upon their back.

The teacher must value this history as given in these stories and help the Negro children to be proud that they have descended from men and women who have set the world an example of peace, honesty, fidelity and grit.

For us, their children, the history of their labors, their achievements, their sufferings their sympathy with the less fortunate, their grim determination to measure up to the standard set for the white man who had years of running ahead should never be without interest and admiration.

Present conditions and future progress of the race demand that this generation of Negroes preserve the history of these noble black lives.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

A SUGGESTION TO COUNTRY MOTHERS

All intelligent mothers want their daughters to be modest and pure, their sons to be clean and noble. Sanitation and hygiene are found in text-books and are supposed to be taught in schools, but text-book knowledge is dead stuff until it is put into practice. The next step is to bring this information down to earth and connect it up with the daily lives of the children, and these lessons must be so thoroughly taught that they will stick, not only by precept, but even more by practice.

Physicians used to treat symptoms, now they try to locate the cause of the disease. They used to dope patients for malaria and yellow fever, now they kerosene the mosquito. They still prescribe for typhoid, but at the same time they "Swat" the fly. Most teachers give some attention to dress, cleanliness and personal appearance of their pupils while in the school room, but in most cases it ends with that.

The most unspeakable spot on the school grounds or in the district is the privy. A few schools have none. Some have but one for both boys and girls. More have the two joined together and separated only by a single board partition, while many are partly "caved in" or "caved out", or with doors off, and very few are screened and so separated as to insure any privacy. Most of them are reeking with filth and covered with obscenity, breeders of disease and corruptors of the morals and manners of innocent children.

Teachers pay little attention to this subject, school boards pay less and parents scarcely any at all. Yet it is far more important to know what a teacher will do to protect the child from a foul closet, with floor and seat covered with human filth and wall with lewd words and pictures, than to know how she will grade in arithmetic, or what is the grade of her certificate. It is more necessary for the school board to properly look after this matter than to buy dustless crayons and felt erasers, for scars on character do not erase. And it is even more important for parents to guard the morals of their children from the evils of the school privy than to protect their health in the school room.—C. G. Sargent, Colorado Agricultural College.

NOTICE TO SOUTHERN CORN GROWERS

Dry and Cull Before Selling—Kill the Weevils —Damp, Weevily, or Rotten Ears Lower the Price

The following suggestions for harvesting, handling and marketing corn in the South are from a special circular shortly to be issued by the department:

When for Early Market

Husk in the field as soon as corn is mature and thoroughly dried.

Don't snap—unless snapped corn sells at a premium in your locality.

Don't top or strip; it lowers yield—topping by as much as 15 or 20 per cent.

Cull or pick out while husking all soft, moldy, or weevil-bored ears. Keep these out of your good corn. They lower your grade.

For Storing on the Farm

When not able to provide tight bins and fumigate, it may be better to follow the usual custom and snap and store with the husks on.

Worm-eaten, bird-pecked, and otherwise damaged ears and the nubbins should be culled from the sound, well-covered corn and kept separate for immediate use.

Dry your Corn

After gathering and culling, put sound corn for market or winter use in an open but well-roofed crib until fairly dry.

Damp corn heats and molds and loses you money. Drying is especially necessary after a wet season.

Corn to be fed on the farm in a few weeks may, of course, be stored in any open crib with a good roof.

Fumigate and Kill Weevils

If corn shows signs of weevils or moths when gathered or in the crib, move it to tight bins for fumigation.

See that bins are dry and thoroughly cleaned. Don't add new corn to old weevily corn.

Bisulphid of carbon will kill the weevils.

Don't waste time and money sprinkling salt, lime, or sulphur on the corn.

Caution.—Bisulphid must be handled with extreme care. Its fumes are highly inflammable. Keep all lights, lanterns, lighted matches, pipes, or cigars away from it and the building or bin where it is used.

Use 3 to 5 pounds of commercial bisulphid of carbon to each 100 bushels of corn.

Put the bisulphid in shallow pans or in rags or cotton over the surface of the corn in the bin. Immediately close the bin and make it as nearly air-tight as possible.

Keep the bin closed for at least 24 hours. Fumigation for 3 days is still better and will do no harm.

At the end of the fumigation open the bins and ventilate the corn.

Examine the fumigated corn; if thoroughly dry, the corn can be left in the bin. Any corn stored in bins should be inspected frequently. If the cron is damp it should be put into the crib, or at least the bins should be left open

and the corn frequently handled to prevent heating and molding.

How to Prepare for Market

When moving corn from the crib for shipment or when shelling for sale, pick out all damaged, moldy, or weevily ears.

Every bad ear culled out before sale helps you get a higher grading and well repays you in money for extra time and trouble.

Where shelled corn shows 10 per cent of damaged grains, your corn will be graded No. 5. Very few bad ears will bring your corn down to this grade or lower, and 15 per cent will bring it down to grade No. 6.

The more bad ears culled out, the better your chances for a higher grade.

Sell in Bulk When You Can

Do not sack your corn if you can sell it with equal profit in bulk.

Some dealers handle only sacked corn, others only bulk. Meet the requirements of your dealer or local market.

If you ship shelled corn in bulk, see that the car is uniformly loaded. Where good and poor corn are to be shipped in the same car, see that they are properly separated by bulkheads. A mixture of good and poor corn will give a low grade for the entire car.

Handling Shelled Corn

Before shelling, pick out all damaged ears.

See that the corn is clean and uniform in quality and color, and free from weevils.

When shelled corn is badly broken or dirty, clean it over a No. 6 screen (6 wires to the inch each way). Use the screenings for poultry or other feed. Screenings are worth money, but lose you money if left in your market corn.

Wherever live weevils are present, shelled corn will not grade better than "sample." Therefore clean all shelled corn, whether broken or not, containing live weevil, over a No. 6 screen.

Use only good sacks and sew them instead of merely tying up. Old or damaged sacks often mean re-sacking at destination.

Corn for sacking should be weighed, not measured. Each sack should contain 100, 112, or 140 pounds net, depending on the mraket to which it is to be shipped.

The Federal Food and Drugs Act requires that all sacks packed as above and shipped from one State to another should bear a plain and conspicuous statement of the quantity of contents in terms of weigh or measure.

* * *

Pick Seed Corn in the Field

The first step in growing good corn is the selection of good seed.

Select your seed crn in the field from the standing stalks as soon as mature.

See that ears are of uniform type in size, color, shape and depth of kernel, and position on stalk, and with well-projected husks to retard attacks by weevils.

Dry thoroughly in a dry room, store in tight paper-lined boxes, fumigate, then put in liberal supply of naphthalene or moth balls and close tightly.—Weekly News Letter.

WINNERS FROM THE SOIL

Colored Heros of the Farm

MAKING FARMING PAY

Story told in National Negro Business League in Muskogee, Oklahoma

by J. L. Whitlow, of Tuskegee, Alabama

I am not much of a talker but a farmer. I live in Alabama not so far from Dr. Washington's big school (referring to Tuskegee Institute). I started without education and haven't got much yet but i manage to get along somehow or other. I was so poor at the time I got married that I had little more than enough money to buy the license with and we had to borrow a turkey gobbler for our marriage feast. (Prolong ed laughter and applause.) My wife knew just how I was situated but she said she was willing to cast her lot and mine together in life, and we made up our minds from the start that we were going to work hard, pull together, and deny ourselves of some of the things we needed until we could do better. When we first went to housekeeping I would buy a sack of corn meal in March and that one sack of meal would last me and my wife until July, and then I'd go and get another sack. (Prolonged laughter.) My wife would take some of that corn meal and cook a big hoe cake every morning and then she would make soup out of a part of that. (Renewed laughter and applause.)

Dr. Booker T. Washington: Tell them how you started out as a farmer.

Mr. J. L. Whitlow: I started out with a plow and two oxen—two steers and being raised on the farm I knew how to raise cotton; I rented a little piece of land and would plow for myself one day and work out one day; I would plow and hoe for myself three days and work out the other three days and while some of my neighbors were frolicking around I would be hard at work raising cotton either for myself or on shares. At one time in my life I remember I had to work for seventy-five cents a week, and before I got to working for myself I took to raising cotton on shares and rented land on shares, that is, when I would make a certain number of bales of cotton I'd give the owner of the land so much cotton for the rent of the land; say, for instance, when I raised eleven bales of cotton, I'd give him a part as rent and I'd keep the balance and so on, from year to year, until I was able to buy some land of my own.

Dr. Booker T. Washington: How many acres of land do you now own?

Mr. J. L. Whitlow: I own fifteen hundred and thirty-seven (1,537) acres of land in Alabama. (Prolonged applause.) I also run a store of my own; in addition to selling other things I run a dairy business and carry to market milk and other dairy products—as high as ($75) Seventy-Five Dollars' worth a month. (Applause.)

Dr. Booker T. Washington: How many bales of cotton did you make this year?

Mr. J. L. Whitlow: About one hundred and fifty (150) bales. (Hearty applause.)

Dr. Washington: What Mr. Whitlow has done, thousands of young Negro men can do in the sunny South and on the virgin soil of the West.

Dr. Stewman, Shreveport, Louisiana: I undestood Mr. Whitlow to say that he and his wife lived from March until July on one bag of corn meal. Now in these days of high cost of living, I for one would like to know how he managed to exist on such rations; didn't you have something else to go along with that meal?

Mr. J. L. Whitlow: Yes, we had two bags of peas, some salt and black pepper and sometimes I'd go the grocery store and get about 50 cents worth of scrap meat, fat and bones to cook up along with the meal and the peas; we lived and got along well on our humble rations, and now we can have chicken, eggs, butter, milk, ham, vegetables or whatever we please. (Applause.)

AIDS IN POTATO PRODUCTION

(1) A more liberal use of potato seed will generally result in both increased production and profit.

(2) A good storage place is essential in order to insure sound, firm seed at planting time.

(3) The use of high-grade seed would increase the returns from the potato crop of the country by many millions of dollars.

(4) All seed should be treated with formalin before planting to prevent scab.—Weekly News Letter. U. S. Dept. of Ag.

DAIRY CHAT

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A farmer who does not use a separator loses considerable part of his butterfat. A separator provides the only method of getting all of it.—Better Farming.

Handle the calf gently at all times. Ill treatment ruins an animal's disposition and disposition has more to do with milk flow than a great many people think.—Better Farming.

Keep a record sheet for your dairy herd. record the daily feed and production of each cow. Then, by having the milk tested for butterfat occasionally, you will know which of your cows are profitable and which are boarders.—Better Farming.

It is a pleasure to live among congenial neighbors. A home is worth a good deal more in a neighborhood where the folks are all trying to help one another than in one where there is continual strife. We are with our near neighbors so much and must have so much to do with them that we cannot afford to be anything but the best of friends. Friendly neighbors can own together such machines as silage cutters, corn shellers, and cement mixers and what is more important can always rely on the help and sympathy of one another.—Geo. W. Godfrey, Iowa, in Successful Farming.

PASTURE SOME POOR ANIMAL

If you have a yard, lot or farm, with grass thereon, don't let the grass go to seed. Let some poor, overworked, ill-fed horse or mule graze and "keep the grass down" for you, whether you stay in town in summer or not. You and the animals will feel better by thi act of kindness. If you are humanely inclined and ever saw a horse or mule grazing freedom, the joy such a view gives will inspire you to give some poor creature a like pleasure. Try it.—Our Dumb Animals.

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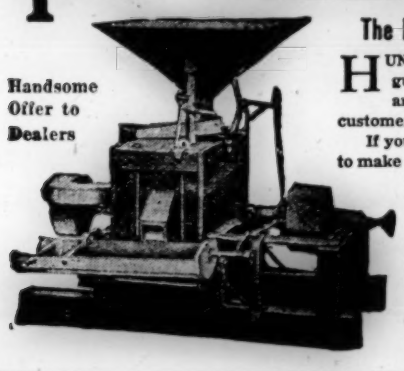

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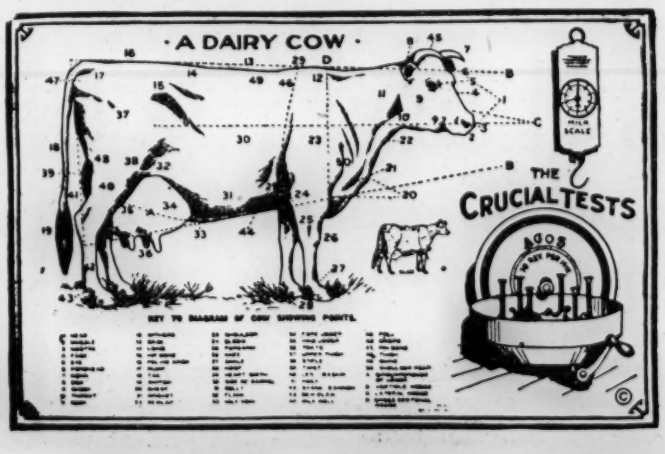

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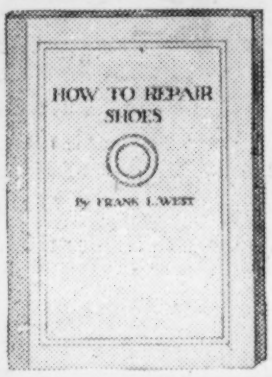

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